

MARKED-UP VERSION OF ABSTRACT

~~A breathable article, such as for example a medical dressing or a cushioning or lining article for locating between a person and a surface of (i) apparel or clothing, (ii) a chair, (iii) a wheelchair, (iv) headwear, (v) footwear, (vi) body protectors, armour and shields, (vii) bedding, (viii) upholstery coverings, or (ix) orthopaedic articles, is formed from an elastomeric (e.g. foamed neoprene) sheet 1. The sheet has first 2 and second major faces and small pin-prick sized perforations 6 provided therethrough in the centres of surface depressions or chambers 7 of the first major face 2 and corresponding dome projections 8 of the second major face.~~

~~Between the perforations 6 is provided a plurality of spacer members in the form of a network of continuous ribs 9 which project from the second major face and serve in use to space the sheet 1 from the surface to maintain breathability via the venting of air through the depressions/chambers 7 and the perforations 6.~~

~~The ribs 9 can have an air permeable sheet cover member (not shown) secured thereto extending between adjacent ribs to enclose an air space between the ribs.~~

~~The invention also provides the corresponding breathable fabric from which the above breathable article can be produced.~~

CLEAN VERSION OF ABSTRACT

A breathable article for disposition between the skin of a wearer and an outside surface. The breathable article has a plurality of perforations which interconnect an inner side adapted to contact the wearer and an outer side designed to contact the outside surface. Each perforation has an outwardly-extending, flexible dome-like projection which defines an internal cavity, and ribs or spacer members on the outer side of the article, thereby improving the flow of air and/or vapor through the internal cavity when the article is in contact with the outside surface.